

OXBOW ECO-CENTER

5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
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CALENDAR April 2012 through August 2012

Visit the center for some free fun activities and check out our cool rotating exhibits.
Center hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12-5pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm.
Trails are open daily from dawn until dusk.

APRIL 2012 -- Celebrating Nature's Colors through Art

Guided Hikes – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE; enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Survival 101” – April 5th; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant. Get lost in the woods with Oxbow staff! Using basic survival skills, like the “Rule of 3” and using a compass, participants will find their way back to the center. Students need to be dressed appropriately with a hat and closed-toe shoes. Be sure to bring plenty of water! **RSVP a must.**

“Endangered Species” St. Lucie Audubon lecture – April 5th at 7pm. Join Julie Wraithmell with Audubon of Florida, as she discusses endangered species of Florida. This is a FREE lecture and is open to the public.

Brown Bag Lecture “Florida in Oils”— April 7th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Discover natural Florida through the paintbrush of local, homegrown artist Charles Walker. Walker will be joined by his wife Gertrude, sharing stories of early Fort Pierce and the beauty that Charles captures in his oil paintings. Gertrude, an artist in her own right, is sister of one of the original nine Highwaymen artists from Fort Pierce. No RSVP required.

Swamp Tales— April 12th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story time is appropriate for ages 3 to 6. No RSVP required.

Nature for Families “How Animals Use their Colors”— April 14th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Can you find me? Explore how animals use color to hide or camouflage in their habitats, warn other animals to stay away, find food, or even use their beautiful colors to get a boyfriend or girlfriend! Then make a warning color bracelet to take home as a reminder. Participants need to wear solid colored t-shirts for the program. Appropriate for ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. **RSVP a must.**

Artists in Action Day – April 14th 10am to 4pm – Take a hike in the morning and meet artists at work in the great outdoors. The Plein Air Painters of the Treasure Coast will be setting up their easels along the trail, and creating art before your very eyes. In the afternoon (1:30pm-4:00pm), come inside the Center to meet local artists working in a variety of media including fresco mosaics, multi-media pieces, garden art, and more. The event is FREE and you may even be inspired to purchase a piece of art to take home.

Oxbow and the Natives “King Snake vs. Coral Snake”— April 19th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Red on yellow kill a fellow, red on black friend of Jack. Can you tell the difference between the venomous coral snake and the non-venomous scarlet king snake? Join Oxbow for this free program

appropriate for ages 5 and up. No RSVP required.

Treehouse Time – April 20th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Painting with Fruit. Toddlers will try out their artistic skills using fruit to create beautiful works of art. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No RSVP required.

“Soap and Woodcarving” Art Class – April 21st; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with the Oxbow to present the art of carving. Adults will be carving wood; kids will be carving soap. \$28 per participant (which includes ALL supplies, including your own carving glove). **RSVP a must.**

Painting in Oils Workshop and Demonstration with Charles Walker – April 28th 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; RSVP and \$20 pre-payment is required. Join the Oxbow Eco-Center for a special oil painting workshop and demonstration with Charles Walker. Walker’s oil paintings highlight Florida native wildlife and landscapes with bold paint strokes and deep colors that bring the scene to life. The workshop is designed as a demonstration for those who want to just listen, watch and learn. Participants who want to practice along with Mr. Walker are encouraged to bring their easels and supplies. **RSVP a must.**

May 2012 – The Nature of Moms Month

Guided Hikes – Saturday May 5th and 12th at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched by the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

Home School Day at the Oxbow “Adaptive Animals” – May 3rd; Grades K-4th 10am-12pm; Grades 5th-12th 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant. Have you ever wondered why snakes like to stick out their forked tongues or why birds have such different shaped beaks and colored feathers? These questions and more will be featured at this educational hands-on program. **RSVP a must.**

“Alternatives to Longline Fishing in the Gulf” -- St. Lucie Audubon lecture –May 3rd at 7pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. The Gulf of Mexico provides important habitat for rare and beautiful marine species including the Atlantic bluefin tuna, blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish and sharks. But even before the oil disaster, Gulf species faced a significant threat from surface longline fishing gear. These 30-mile long lines, with hundreds of baited hooks, indiscriminately catch and kill approximately 80 types of animals, including endangered sea turtles, game fish, and depleted Atlantic bluefin tuna. Ironically, the oil spill could provide a real solution to the problem. Learn how by joining Cameron Jaggard, with the Pew Environmental Group, as he discusses the problems and potential solutions to longline fishing. This is a FREE lecture and is open to the public.

Brown Bag Lecture “The Working Mom”— May 5th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. From cleaning up her children’s mess, to giving piggy-back rides, to the preparation of the evening meal, being a working mom can be really tough but rewarding. Join Master Naturalist Amanda Thompson as she discusses nature’s working animal moms at this free lunchtime lecture. No RSVP required.

Swamp Tales— May 10th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story time is appropriate for ages 3 to 6. No RSVP required.

Nature for Families “Animal Moms- The Good, the Bad & the Ugly”—May 12th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Discover some of nature’s unique moms as we look at mothering techniques from

the caring embrace of the Wolf Spider to the forgetfulness of the Box Turtle. Participants will try their hand at the “Momma Hispid Cotton Rat” race and make a unique reusable gift for mom. Appropriate for ages 6 and up; \$4 per participant. **RSVP a must.**

Oxbow and the Natives “How the Opossum Raises her Young”— May 17th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Opossums are great mothers. As North America’s only marsupial, they carry their offspring in an abdominal pouch. Learn about their amazing natural history at this free program is appropriate for ages 5 and up; FREE. No RSVP required.

Treehouse Time “Cards for Mom” – May 18th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Each child will create a natural card, then they will have fun singing and dancing with their moms and sharing some of their favorite mommy stories. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No RSVP required.

“Zentangles in Color” Art Class – May 19th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with THE Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class. This program explores the art of Zentangling, which is a free-drawing art described as “doodling with patterns.” Use nature’s own designs to get inspired! \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). **RSVP a must.**

June 2012 – Magnificent Mollusks Month

Brown Bag Lecture “Listening to Oyster Reefs”—June 2nd at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Join marine biologist Hilde Zenil, an associate researcher for the Florida Oceanographic Society as she presents her research on oyster reef restoration. Zenil uses passive acoustics as a tool to monitor the combination of sounds produced by communication, feeding, and moving of various species associated with oyster reefs. This is a FREE lunchtime lecture. No RSVP required.

Swamp Tales— June 7th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story time is appropriate for ages 3 to 6. FREE. No RSVP required.

Nature for Families “The Siphonaters”—June 9th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Imagine a world where you can eat, move, sing and breathe from the same body part. In the world of the mollusks, animals like oysters, apple snails and squid depend on their long tubular siphon in their day to day lives. Participants will get to experiment using a siphon to become a marvelous mollusk. Appropriate for ages 6 and up; \$4 per participant. **RSVP a must.**

Going Wild Summer Camp—June 11-15; 9:00am – 1:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 8 to 12 years old will travel through time and meet some of the massive animals that once roamed Florida, from the mastodon to the megalodon, then learn about their relatives that live among us today. Campers will travel to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary where they will be able to get an up-close view of some of Florida’s mammals! Bring your own snacks and lunch. **\$85 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

Oxbow and the Natives “Oysters”— June 12th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Did you know that oysters can tell us a lot about the health of our estuaries? Learn about this amazing creature, restoration efforts, and then help bag oysters to be used to create a real oyster reef. This is a free program for ages 5 and up. No RSVP required.

Treehouse Time “Chummy Clams”— June 15th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Children and parents

will get a chance to be a “pearl diver”. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No RSVP required.

“Decorative Paper Beads” Art Class – June 16th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with the Oxbow to present this nature-inspired class that explores the art of making beautiful beads with paper. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). **RSVP a must.**

Surviving the Wild Summer Camp—June 25-29; 9:00am – 1:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 12 to 16 years old will become survivalists and learn the skills it takes to survive in the wild, including making cordage or rope, constructing a shelter with nothing but natural materials, building a fire using primitive tools, and making a compass to find your way home. In addition to survivalist training, participants will spend time as ethnobotanists learning about the plants that indigenous people used to survive! Bring your own snacks and lunch. **\$90 per camper. Pre-registration required.**

Special Presentation “The Imperiled Apple Snail” – June 30th at 12 pm. Join gastropod scientist extraordinaire Amber Garr as she presents her research on the overlooked but vitally important apple snail. This is a FREE lecture. No RSVP required.

July 2012 – Alien Invaders Month

Brown Bag Lecture “Pythons in Florida”— July 7th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Burmese pythons have made media headlines recently because of their expansion into Florida’s native landscapes. These large predators are not the only pythons to invade, learn about other exotic reptiles that have made their way into our natural areas and the management practices being used to combat these invaders. You’ll also learn about snake biology and get a chance to have a hands on experience with a python . This is a FREE lunchtime lecture. No RSVP required.

Spirit of Nature Art Camp—July 10-13; 8:30am – 12:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 7 to 10 years old. Set your creative spirit free! Students will be making clay animals, wildlife dioramas, gorgeous beads, zentangle art, walking sticks, and more! Bring your own snacks. **\$75 per camper (includes all art supplies). Pre-registration required.**

Swamp Tales— July 12th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free storytime is appropriate for ages 3 to 6. No RSVP required.

Nature for Families “Meet our Local Invaders”—July 14th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Did you know you could have an alien invader spying on you in your own backyard! From warty toads to chatty birds join the Oxbow to get the facts on which aliens may be invading your neighborhood. Appropriate for ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. **RSVP a must.**

Oxbow and the Natives “Feral Hogs”— July 19th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. They’re smart, they’re big, they’re destructive and they are taking over! Join us as we discuss Feral Hogs and their amazing adaptive behaviors. This is a free program for ages 5 and up. No RSVP required.

Treehouse Time “Aliens have Touched Down” – July 20th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Kids will become aliens and explore “earth.” This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No RSVP required.

“Drawing Basics and Perspective” Art Class – July 21st; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with the Oxbow to teach the basics of drawing with Joseph Perdue. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). **RSVP a must.**

Spirit of Nature Art Camp—July 23-27; 8:30am – 2:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Campers ages 11 to 16 years old. Set your creative spirit free! Students will be making clay animals, wildlife dioramas, beautiful drumheads, mosaics, gorgeous beads, zentangle art, walking sticks, and more! Bring your own snacks. **\$120 per camper (includes all art supplies). Pre-registration required.**

August 2012 – Good Bug, Bad Bug Month

Brown Bag Lecture “Friends and Foes of your Landscape”— August 4th at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE. Gobbling grasshoppers and aphids can wreak havoc in your garden, but some beetles and bees can make it grow lush. County Extension Director and Horticulture Agent Anita Neal will help make sense of managing pests the eco-friendly way, while discussing the plants that will make your landscape work for you. This is a FREE lunch time lecture. No RSVP required.

Junior Naturalist Day Camp—August 7-10; 9:30am – 12:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center; Ages 4 to 8 years old. Bring your little ones to day camp and let them get a little wild. Each day will focus on different families of animals ... where they live, what they need to survive, and some of the strategies they use to outsmart their predators. Each day will be filled with fun learning and creative crafts that participants will be able to take home. Choose one day or all four! Bring your own snacks. **\$10 per day. Pre-registration required.**

Swamp Tales— August 9th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story time is appropriate for ages 3 to 6. No RSVP required.

Nature for Families “Poopers or Pollinators?”—August 11th at 10:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Pollinators and poopers make the world go ‘round! Without them, strawberries, corn and other delicious plants would be unable to grow. Learn strategies and adaptations of bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, millipedes and worms. Participants will get to play a round of bug jeopardy and experience the natural world through the eyes of a bug. Appropriate for ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. **RSVP a must.**

Oxbow and the Natives “The Unknown Dragonfly”—August 16th at 3:45 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Butterflies have a lot of fans because of their beautiful colors, while dragonflies are often overlooked. Visit the Oxbow to learn about some of our colorful dragonflies and their interesting natural history. This is a free program for ages 5 and up. No RSVP required.

Treehouse Time “The Ant Colony” – August 17th at 9:30 am at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Participants will become “Ants” playing follow the leader, the scent game, and trying their hand at some ant “weight-lifting.” This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No RSVP required

“Painting on Palm Boots” Art Class – August 18th; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center. Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with the Oxbow to present a nature-inspired class that uses cabbage palm boots as canvasses for some unique works of art. \$20 per participant (which includes ALL supplies). **RSVP a must.**